

"The Big Story"
1003-023

Ben 10: Ultimate Alien

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BEN 10: Ultiamte Alien
#686-023 "The Big Story"
Written by Jim Krieg & Ernie Altbacker
Second Draft 03/20/10

TEASER

EXT. OUTSIDE OF BELLWOOD - NIGHT

VIEWFINDER POV

Slow PAN across the landscape outside of Bellwood. The FULL MOON lets us see a nearby CAVE.

1 JIMMY (O.S.)
Podcast, Thursday, May 25th. 10:34
P.M. The bus to Bellwood took
longer than I thought. If my
sources are right, I'm cutting it
close.

The CAMERA'S POV TURNS as it is set down on a rock to point at JIMMY. He opens a bag labeled "Prince's Peanuts" with a Peanut wearing a crown on the bag. He MUNCHES.

2 JIMMY (CONT'D)
Satellite data, web chatter and my
reporter's gut all say this isn't
just another meteor strike. It's
the story of a lifetime.

There's a SONIC BOOM as something entering the atmosphere. Jimmy's camera is snatched up as he tries and focus on a BURNING METEOR. He is not a good cameraman.

3 JIMMY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
There it is!

The meteor SMASHES into the hillside above the cave mouth, brightening the INSIDE of the cave.

4 JIMMY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
The object seems to have gone
straight into the cave.
Coincidence? Doubtful.

The CAMERA POV jostles as Jimmy runs toward the cave.

5 JIMMY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
The cave. A creepy, dark cave. I
pause for a snack. <MUNCHES
PEANUTS> Okay, I can do this.

SFX Bag crumpling as the camera's POV moves into the cave.

INT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

A FLASHLIGHT clicks on to give us a NARROW VIEW of what's ahead. PAN up to find a HOLE DRILLED through the hillside.

6 JIMMY (O.S.)

Doesn't look like a regular meteor made that, that's for sure.

The thin beam of light sweeps back and forth.

7 JIMMY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

There's something in here. It doesn't look like an alien ship or probe, either. It's-- it's--

MOVING CLOSER. The viewfinder and flashlight provide a better view. It's an ALIEN-like green, plant BULB.

8 JIMMY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(disappointed)

A dumb space plant!? News? Yes.
Scoop? No.

Jimmy's ARM comes into FRAME as he reaches out.

9 JIMMY (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Come on! The least you can do is bloom or something.

SUDDENLY, the bulb OPENS. Jimmy DROPS the camera.

10 JIMMY (CONT'D)

<cry of surprise!>

We now see JIMMY, the pre-teen intrepid podcaster, with a bag of peanuts in his hand. TENTACLES slither from the alien plant's base.

TENDRILS twist up his legs and PULL! The terrified boy is dragged closer and closer to the ferocious alien plant!

11 JIMMY (CONT'D)

<struggle> <SCREAMS>

Peanuts fly everywhere as plant tentacles loop over Jimmy's shoulder and DRAG him OUT OF FRAME as we...

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. POWER PLANT - NIGHT

Kevin's coated in metal, his MACE and HAMMER HANDS pummel SEVENSEVEN backwards.

12 SEVENSEVEN
<impacts>

Sevenseven's arms extend ENERGY CANNONS which aim and FIRE!

13 KEVIN
<CRY OF PAIN, IMPACT GRUNT>

Kevin is HURLED into the opposite wall which CRACKS. He's trapped in the crevice his own body made.

14 KEVIN (CONT'D)
<struggles>

Sevenseven approaches Kevin menacingly.

15 GWEN
Back off!

Gwen starts throwing ENERGY DISCS at the alien. Sevenseven draws a glowing samurai-like alien sword and intercepts every one of Gwen's blasts.

15a GWEN (CONT'D)
<3 throwing efforts>

16 SEVENSEVEN
<3 efforts, then attack>

Sevenseven leaps to attack with the sword. Gwen's ENERGY SHIELD materializes just in the nick of time.

17 GWEN
<GRUNT OF EFFORT>

Gwen strains to keep her screen up against Sevenseven's blows. It's CRACKING under the repeated blows. Kevin struggles to his feet as Ben joins them.

17a GWEN (CONT'D)
<strains>

18 SEVENSEVEN
<efforts>

19 BEN
Sevenseven is a real pro. Every
move is precise, calculated...

20 GWEN
<STRAINING> Lecture... faster...

21 BEN
Only way to beat him is to outthink
him. Brainstorm, coming up!

He calls up Brainstorm on the Ultimatrix and SWATS it. But
the TRANSFORMATION shows Ben growing LARGE and STRONG and
SAVAGE... instead of Brainstorm, he becomes RATH!

22 RATH
Rath!

Kevin, still pinned in the wall, reacts.

23 KEVIN
I thought you said you were going
for brains.

Just then, Gwen's shield SHATTERS under Sevenseven's blow.

24 GWEN
<CRY OF PAIN>

Sevenseven antics toward Gwen, when a HUGE PAW grabs him.

25 RATH
You did not just do that! Let me
tell you something Sevenseven,
intergalactic bounty hunter for
hire--

Sevenseven TWISTS FREE with a martial arts move.

26 SEVENSEVEN
<effort>

27 RATH
Ooh! Karate! I'm going to call you
Karate Man! Can I call you Karate
Man, Karate Man?

Sevenseven SWINGS with the sword. Rath CATCHES the sword in
his TEETH and BITES it in two.

28 SEVENSEVEN
<effort>

Sevenseven takes a step back and goes into a fighting pose.

30 SEVENSEVEN (CONT'D)

<warning>

31 RATH

Tell you what, Karate Man, I'll hold real still, like a stack of boards, then you can meditate until you're ready to chop me in half, okay!

Sevenseven tries to chop Rath with the edge of his hand, Rath blocks it with his forearm.

32 SEVENSEVEN

<effort> <interrupted effort>

33 RATH

I lied! You know the difference between me and a pile of boards?

Rath punches him with a straight right.

34 RATH (CONT'D)

Boards don't hit back!

35 SEVENSEVEN

<2 impacts>

Sevenseven is knocked clear across the room into a bank of machinery.

He rights himself and THROWS a GRENADES. Rath catches it and looks at it, puzzled.

35a SEVENSEVEN (CONT'D)

<throwing effort>

36 RATH

Kind of a stupid time to start a game of catch.

The grenade EXPLODES in his face, singeing his fur and blowing it back, but otherwise leaving him surprisingly unharmed.

37 RATH (CONT'D)

Oh.

(to Sevenseven)

See, now I'm mad...

On Sevenseven, backing up as Rath's shadow falls across him.

CUT TO:

EXT. POWER PLANT - NIGHT - SHORTLY

Ben, Kevin, and Gwen are outside. Above them, hanging from the still lit LAMPPOST wrapped around him, is Sevenseven.

38

GWEN

Well, I guess that about wraps things up.

No reaction from the boys as they approach Kevin's car.

39

GWEN (CONT'D)

Oh, come on! There's a lamppost wrapped around him

40

BEN

Yeah, I know. Good try.

Jimmy ENTERS.

41

JIMMY

Guys! Wait up!

Ben's thankful for the interruption.

42

BEN

Hey, Jimmy! It's been a while. You want to cover this on your website?

43

KEVIN

Get video of Gwen saying, "I guess that about wraps things up!"

44

GWEN

Are you making fun of me?

45

KEVIN

I'm trying to be supportive.

46

JIMMY

Guys! I've got real news. I intercepted the vanguard of an alien invasion and stopped it before it could start.

They stare at him in disbelief. Jimmy smugly eats peanuts from a bag. Finally...

46a

JIMMY (CONT'D)

<chomps>

47

GWEN

(scoffing)

Really?

48

JIMMY

Yep. I think I must have defeated the alien plant monster in its cave, then staggered outside, but I kinda blacked out during the battle.

49

KEVIN

Video. Or it didn't happen.

50

JIMMY

I had video, but I think the plant must have taken it when it retreated back into the cave. I figured you'd want to... uh, check my work.

51

KEVIN

Yeah. I'm out.

52

GWEN

I have tons of studying to do, Jimmy. Maybe next conspiracy.

Jimmy turns to Ben with BIG PUPPY DOG EYES. AFTER AN AWKWARD BEAT.

53

BEN

Okay, okay. I'll check it out.

54

BEN (CONT'D)

(to Kevin)

My car's still in the shop, think you can give us a ride?

EXT. CAVE - NIGHT

Ben and Jimmy walk toward the cave.

55

JIMMY

I can't believe you don't have a bus pass. That should be Plumber standard issue.

56

BEN

I'll make a note.

Ben notices Jimmy's trepidation and motions him to stay.

57

BEN (CONT'D)

Stay here. I'll check this out myself.

58

JIMMY

Well, if that's standard
procedure...

Jimmy pulls out a bag of his favorite snacks and munches nervously as Ben disappears into the cave. Jimmy looks around nervously. A SFX <bird call> startles him.

58a

JIMMY (CONT'D)

<chomps>

59

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Ben? Is everything all right?

No answer. Jimmy inches closer looking into the darkness.

60

JIMMY (CONT'D)

... Ben?

Still silence for a long beat, then:

61

BEN (O.S.)

Come on in, Jimmy!

INT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy nervously follows Ben's voice into the cave. He looks up and the hole from last night is GONE.

62

BEN (O.S.)

Back here.

Jimmy turns a corner and there's Ben, who lights the cave with a small FLASHLIGHT. The cave is COMPLETELY EMPTY.

63

BEN (CONT'D)

Looks like you've held the line
against the alien invasion.

Jimmy darts from one side of the cavern to the other.

64

JIMMY

But-- but-- it was here. Like a pod
or a bulb. From space!

65

BEN

Sometimes when I eat late at night,
I have nightmares so real, I wake
up hitting the Ultimatrix.

66

JIMMY

It really happened!

67

BEN

One time I thought I saw Vilgax
hiding in my closet. It was one of
Grandpa Max's extra shirts.

68

JIMMY

(accepting it)

I don't know. Maybe you're right.
Maybe I wanted another big story so
bad, I dreamed one up.

Jimmy holds out the bag of peanuts. Ben takes a step around
him, heading the other way.

69

BEN

No thanks, I'm allergic. Let's get
you home.

INT. JIMMY'S ROOM - NIGHT

The cluttered room of a ten year old conspiracy theorist.
There are maps with color coded pins and string, news
articles taped everywhere, etc. Jimmy lies on his bed staring
at the ceiling.

70

JIMMY

<SIGHS>

Suddenly, an ALARM rings. Jimmy races to his command center,
three computer monitors on the desk.

71

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Thank you, always-looking-for-weird-
stuff-algorithm! What have we
found?

One screen shows an upward spiking "Water Usage" chart.

72

JIMMY (CONT'D)

This can't be right. It's like
everyone in town flushed the toilet
at the same time. For two days
straight.

Jimmy looks at another downward trending graph.

73

JIMMY (CONT'D)

And the lake is six inches lower
than yesterday. And who uses water,
Jimmy? Plants! That's who.

OTS - Jimmy looks at an INFRARED PICTURE of the area by the
cave and lake. The town is visible. The hottest (reddish)
area is centered on the cave.

74

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Infrared imaging rases another question: Why would the inside of a cave be 12 degrees hotter than the area around it?

Jimmy grabs his backpack,

75

JIMMY (CONT'D)

I'm not imagining this.

EXT./INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Jimmy creeps toward the spooky cave, camera in hand. He heads inside. We hear a ECHOY VOICE talking low.

76

JIMMY

(sotto voce)

This reporter's discovered the truth: The alien plant is still here...

Jimmy peers around the corner and sees A SHADOWY HUMANOID FIGURE standing in front of the alien BULB THING which now has an EYE.

77

SHADOWY FIGURE

<MUMLING>

78

JIMMY

(sotto voice)

... and it's found some traitorous human to do its bidding!

There's a COCOON hanging from the wall behind the plant, along with vines and tendrils spreading on the back of the cave. Then, they SHADOWY FIGURE turns, revealing... BEN!?!?

79

BEN

Your will is my command.

Jimmy can't believe it. His eyes go wide in horror.

80

JIMMY

(too loudly)

Ben's in on it?

Hearing something, a suspicious Ben turns and walks toward Jimmy, who eases away and runs as quietly as he's able outside the cave. He ducks behind a tree as Ben exits.

81

JIMMY (CONT'D)

(sotto voice)

Got to get proof.

Jimmy raises his camera and takes a picture. The camera FLASHES, briefly illuminating the whole cave.

82

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Oops.

Ben looks around, not quite able to place where the flash came from.

He's methodically searching, he gets CLOSER and CLOSER to Jimmy, who picks up a rock and throws it in the opposite direction. It <CLATTERS>.

Ben turns his attention there. A squirrel runs up a tree and Ben continues on his way. Jimmy slips off in the other direction.

EXT. GWEN'S HOUSE - MORNING

Establishing.

83

GWEN (O.S.)

So, now you're saying that Ben is betraying Earth to an alien invader?

INT. GWEN'S ROOM, GWEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Jimmy shows the various graph print outs to Gwen at her desk. Kevin lays on the bed munching chips.

84

JIMMY

I'm just telling you what I saw.

85

KEVIN

Ben Tennyson. The guy who, reminds us daily that he, saved the Earth on several occasions and the galaxy at least once.

86

JIMMY

If the water table graphs aren't enough to convince you, what do you have to say about this?

Jimmy dramatically produces the photo. Gwen and Kevin lean in.

THE PICTURE is extremely BLURRY, showing SOMEONE (or something) in the cave.

87

GWEN

In low-light situations, you should try and hold the camera extra steady.

88

JIMMY

I ducked so he wouldn't see me.

89

GWEN

Who?

90

JIMMY

Ben! He was there talking to the alien.

91

KEVIN

Definitely didn't get his good side. Or any side.

Gwen hands the picture back, irritated.

92

GWEN

Now you're saying Ben is part of a conspiracy? This a shadowy blob. No credible person would ever take this as real proof!

INT. STUDIO - DAY

Jimmy is a guest on the WILL HARANGUE SHOW.

The intro fades and Jimmy sits across from WILL HARANGUE.

93

HARANGUE

Welcome back to the Will Harangue Nation. Our guest today, Jimmy Jones, the ten year old Jimmy, the boy who exposed Ben Tennyson for the menace that he is.

94

JIMMY

Umm, that's not exactly--

Behind Harangue, Jimmy's shadowy picture is put on a monitor.

95

HARANGUE

(to Jimmy)

Don't talk over me, Jimmy.

(to camera)

Now Jimmy has a new, equally startling claim. Ben Tennyson is leading an alien invasion to take over the entire Earth!

The blob VIDEO MORPHS into a clear picture of Ben. They've got his worst ever picture. Ben looks diabolical.

96

JIMMY

I-I didn't say he was leading it. I said he may be involved. He needs our help!

Harangue fixes Jimmy with a stare.

97

HARANGUE

That Tennyson is involved in something nefarious isn't in question. But Jimmy, what do you say to those critics who say you fabricated this entire story?

His face tells us Jimmy has been successfully blindsided.

98

HARANGUE (CONT'D)

That this is an obvious attempt to recapture your glory days of exposing Ben Tennyson, a story that you stumbled into by sheer luck?

99

JIMMY

What?! No. No, I'm telling the truth!

100

HARANGUE

Well, it's certainly the truth that if someone who claims to be Ben Menace-son's friend would betray him like this, then certainly, he's not to be trusted.

Jimmy's mouth drops open as Harangue continues...

INT. GWEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Gwen and Kevin watch the show. Kevin is delighted.

101

HARANGUE (O.S.)

How long are those sheeple in congress going to allow a fifteen year-old boy to wield a weapon capable of...

102

KEVIN

<LAUGHS> I love this show!

103

GWEN

Something really has Jimmy spooked. Maybe we should check it out.

104

KEVIN

Yeah, but he's going to lie about
Ben some more and I want to see--

Gwen shoots Kevin "the look". There's no escaping it.

105

KEVIN (CONT'D)

I can DVR.

EXT. SAV-COST SUPERMARKET - DUSK

Jimmy, wearing a knapsack, puts his bike into a rack and heads inside grumbling.

106

JIMMY

Stupid show.

INT. SAV-COST SUPERMARKET - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy heads down the aisle of this big lot food store. Everything available in giant sizes.

Jimmy heads down the aisle to a display of Prince's Peanuts. The display is very high and shaped like a PYRAMID. He picks up a pack as he hears--

107

BEN (O.S.)

I wish you'd just come to me,
Jimmy.

Jimmy turns, startled. Ben stands there, ominously.

108

JIMMY

<GULPS> Ben.

Ben takes a step toward Jimmy... then something stops him. Ben looks pained. He changes tactics.

109

BEN

I could've cleared this whole thing up. Why don't we go get smoothies. I'm buying.

Jimmy backs away, stuffing the peanuts into his knapsack.

110

JIMMY

Thanks, but my mom says I'm supposed to clean my room. It's a mess. Bye!

Jimmy ducks around the peanut display and rushes down an aisle toward the sliding doors. There is an OS GREEN FLASH.

Jimmy turns to see HUMUNGOUSAUR looming behind him.

111 HUMUNGOUSAUR
 Humungousaur!

The giant alien GRINS MALEVOLENTLY down at Jimmy as we...

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. SAV-COST SUPERMARKET - CONTINUOUS

In the supermarket aisle, Humungousaur stares down the frightened Jimmy.

112 HUMUNGOUSAUR
Don't run away from me, Jimmy.

Jimmy turns tail and runs. Humungousaur stomps after Jimmy, knocking over displays.

114 HUMUNGOUSAUR (CONT'D)
Come here, you!

Jimmy jumps past the velvet ropes in front of the PYRAMID of peanuts and snatches a bag from the bottom.

The pile TEETERS and FALLS onto Humungousaur.

116 HUMUNGOUSAUR (CONT'D)
<CRY OF FRUSTRATION/PAIN>

Humungousaur's reaction is noticed by Jimmy, as he scoots on hands and knees between the VEGETABLE DISPLAYS.

117 HUMUNGOUSAUR (CONT'D)
You can't hide from me, Jimmy!

Humungousaur SWATS ASIDE, or LIFTS Display after Display, looking for Jimmy. Humongousaur lifts the Apple display that Jimmy was hiding behind.

117a HUMUNGOUSAUR (CONT'D)
<growling swipes>

118 HUMUNGOUSAUR (CONT'D)
I only want to take out for a
smoothie, not crush you into a fine
powder.

Jimmy slips away and runs down another aisle. Humungousaur sees him and pursues.

119 HUMUNGOUSAUR (CONT'D)
Why are you running? Your email
address is BENFAN1! Don't you like
me anymore?

Around the corner, Jimmy is emptying big cans of Cooking oil onto the floor.

120

JIMMY

Let's see how you like this!

Humungousaur turns into the aisle and his feet hit the OIL! SUDDENLY he's SKATING out of control down the aisle.

121

HUMUNGOUSAUR

<CRY OF ALARM>

Humungousaur CRASHES into the aisle shelving unit, taking the whole thging down.

122

HUMUNGOUSAUR (CONT'D)

<IMPACT GRUNT> You're just making this harder on yourself!

Jimmy runs down another aisle, angling toward the door.

123

HUMUNGOUSAUR (CONT'D)

Stay away from that door!

Humungousaur scrambles to his feet and lifts the entire aisle-long shelving unit and drops it Jimmy's way, cutting him off.

124

JIMMY

(frightened)

Why are you doing this?

125

HUMUNGOUSAUR

I want to give you an exclusive.

Jimmy backs away when Humungousaur comes at him.

126

HUMUNGOUSAUR (CONT'D)

A real reporter would risk everything to get to the truth.

127

JIMMY

A real reporter follows his hunches and I have a hunch I wouldn't live to post my story.

Jimmy RACES around a corner. Humungousaur turns into the aisle where Jimmy rushed into. He's DISAPPEARED.

128

HUMUNGOUSAUR

Come out, come out, wherever you are...

Jimmy's on the other side of the aisle. He creeps along a shelf filled with SODA.

129

HUMUNGOUSAUR (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Seriously, this is all a big mistake. Sorry I scared you...

Jimmy jostles one two-liter bottle of soda. It falls and he--
Makes a JUGGLING catch, almost dropping it several times, but
GRABS the large bottle without making a sound. Whew.

130 HUMUNGOUSAUR (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Let's get a pizza and talk about
our feelings. I need a hug.

Jimmy sees he's next to a section of "MINTEES" MINT CANS.

Jimmy looks from the bottle of soda to the mints. He SMILES
as an idea pops into his head. He opens the bottle and pours
a quarter of it out on the ground. He opens the tin of mints,
and begins dropping them into the bottle.

Humungousaur enters the aisle of soda and mints.

131 HUMUNGOUSAUR (CONT'D)

Gotcha!

Jimmy's not there. Instead, there are five FIZZLING,
EXPANDING BOTTLE OF SODAS. Humungousaur slowly understands.

132 HUMUNGOUSAUR (CONT'D)

Uh-oh...

KA-BLOOEY! A big explosion of mints and soda!

EXT. SAV-COST SUPERMARKET - NIGHT

Jimmy hops on his bike and rockets away as a SODA-SOAKED
Humungousaur SMASHES through the big doors.

Jimmy pedals like mad, but Humungousaur's huge steps will
quickly overtake him! Then, Jimmy SWERVES into the NARROW
ALLEY behind SAV-COST. It's TOO NARROW for Humungousaur to
follow.

INT. ALLEYWAY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy is able to keep those legs pumping as he slaps a
bluetooth on his ear.

134 JIMMY

Call Gwen Tennyson!

Jimmy looks behind and sees Cannonbolt hurtles toward him.

135 BLUETOOTH (OVER EARPIECE)

Found. Call Ben Tennyson...

136 JIMMY
 No! Call Gwven! Tennyson! Gwen!
137 BLUETOOTH (O.S.)
 Found. Call Ginny Sonnenstein...
138 JIMMY
 Oh, for the love of--

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy streaks onto the sidewalk on the far side of the alley.

139 CANNONBOLT (O.S.)
 Hello again.

Jimmy is shocked to see CANNONBOLT waiting for him.

140 JIMMY
 <CRY OF FEAR>

Jimmy immediately SWERVES onto the BUSY STREET as CANNONBOLT rolls after him.

141 GWEN (O.S.)
 <OVER BLUETOOTH> Hello?

He takes his eyes off the road and has to SWERVE wildly as a TRUCK pulls out in front of him.

142 JIMMY
 Gwen! I'm in total trouble! Ben is after me!

Cannonbolt SMASHES through the back of the truck, slowing his pursuit... slightly.

INT. KEVIN'S CAR - NIGHT

A grim-faced Kevin drives as a strangely detached Gwen listens to Jimmy on her phone on speaker.

143 JIMMY (O.S.)
 I know it sounds crazy, but--

144 GWEN
 No, it's okay. We checked out the cave, Jimmy. We know. Where are you?

145

JIMMY (OVER SPEAKER)

North side of Save Cost! You can't miss me, I'm the kid on a blue bike with an Alien chasing him!

Kevin projects at the phone.

146

KEVIN

We're heading west on Main. Try to stay alive.

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy continues to WEAVE in and out of traffic like a daredevil messenger to elude Cannonbolt. There are several close calls.

Cannonbolt speeds closer. He's almost touching the back of Jimmy's tire.

147

JIMMY

I hope this works...

Jimmy swerves to the opposite side and into ONCOMING TRAFFIC. As he manages to squeeze between the lanes, Cannonbolt is BATTERED by oncoming vehicles, knocked around like a pinball.

148

CANNONBOLT

<several impacts>

Jimmy SKIDS underneath a parked tractor trailer which blocks Cannonbolt momentarily--

149

JIMMY

<CRY OF ALARM>

-- Jimmy makes it through. Cannonbolt SMASHES through!

Jimmy closes his eyes as he just clears a BUS. Cannonbolt doesn't quite make it, he is HURLED up into the air by the impact.

150

CANNONBOLT

<big Impact>

Then, up ahead, Jimmy spots KEVIN'S CAR! Jimmy and Kevin skid to a stop inches away from each other.

151

JIMMY

He's right behind me!

152

GWEN

Everything is going to be all right. Get in the car.

Behind them Cannonball regroups and races toward them.

153 JIMMY
What- what did you find in the
cave?

154 KEVIN
Later. Just get in.

Jimmy hesitates. He looks at their blank, unemotional faces.

155 JIMMY
Yeah. I don't think so.

156 GWEN
Get in, Jimmy.

Cannonbolt rolls to a stop and TRANSFORMS back into Ben.

157 BEN
Why don't we all get in?

INT. KEVIN'S CAR - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Everyone is in their seats.

158 KEVIN
Should we get rid of him? 'Cause I
can totally take care of that for
you.

Ben stares at Jimmy.

159 BEN
Not yet.

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Ben and Gwen walk ahead as Kevin carries Jimmy (who still has his backpack on) like a sack of potatoes over his shoulder.

Jimmy's kicking and trying to get away but it does little good against Kevin's grip.

160 JIMMY
Lemme go! My mom works for the DMV
and she will come after you.

161 KEVIN
(to Ben)
I've said it before and I'll say it
again. I would be happy to silence
this creature once and for all.

162

BEN

The master wants to know why it
couldn't absorb him earlier.

163

GWEN

If there are others with his
natural resistance, we need to know
how it works.

164

KEVIN

So, I can take him out after,
right?

Walking down the tunnel there are VINES and THICK TENDRILS on
the walls and ceiling.

They round the bend in the cave and enter the main chamber.
The cave's walls are TOTALLY COVERED with a plant version of
the Alien-like secretions.

At the back, the POD/BULB has grown. It's GIANT now and the
eye is covered with goo. When it blinks, some of this SPLATS
on the ground.

165

JIMMY

Gross...

Ben stands in front of the eye, obviously hearing something.

166

BEN

Yes, master. We obey.
(to Kevin)
Put him with the others.

Kevin and Gwen each take an arm and drag Jimmy next to THREE
PODS hanging from the wall.

167

JIMMY

No! Lemme go!

When Jimmy gets closer he can see through the TRANSLUCENT
SECTIONS of the pod. There are bodies inside; Ben, Gwen, and
Kevin.

168

JIMMY (CONT'D)

You're not Ben at all! Or Gwen and
Kevin!

Gwen and Kevin hold Jimmy next to the pods as VINES SLITHER
around Jimmy's torso and drawing him OFF the ground.

168a

JIMMY (CONT'D)

<struggles>

169 BEN
No, we're perfect copies, right
down to our DNA.

170 KEVIN
But better than the originals,
which were lame.

171 GWEN
We're in complete harmony.

The plant tendrils SECRETE GOO on Jimmy. It begins to FORM a COCOON like the other three.

172 BEN
Soon there will be no war.

173 GWEN
No disease, no hunger.

174 KEVIN
No fun.

Ben comes up to Jimmy.

175 BEN
The world will be a garden. And
everything will be perfect.

The three turn toward the BULB in unison. After a moment they all say--

176 BEN/GWEN/KEVIN
Yes, master...

The three walks out of the room. Jimmy is alone with the Master. He's terrified, but tries to cover.

177 JIMMY
The biggest story of my life and
nobody to report it to.
(to plant, defiantly)
Well, guess what, plant man! It's
not going to end this way. You're
going down!

Suddenly, the plant begins to move again. It grows.

Jimmy is silenced by fear as he watches in horror.

Plant TENDRILS burst out of the ground, winding their way CLOSER and CLOSER to Jimmy.

178 JIMMY (CONT'D)
No. No! What are you doing!?

The tendrils reach Jimmy's legs and snake their way up his body. Finally, they wrap around Jimmy's face as he screams--

179

JIMMY (CONT'D)

NOOOO!

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. CAVE - MAIN CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

The plant tendrils SQUEEZE Jimmy tighter and tighter as they SECRETE their cocooning liquid.

180 JIMMY
Help! Helllp!!

Jimmy struggles. As the vines wrap around him-- BAGS OF PEANUTS fall from the top of the knapsack.

180a JIMMY (CONT'D)
<struggles>

The vines LOOSEN, shying away from the peanuts. Jimmy sees it.

181 JIMMY (CONT'D)
No way.

Jimmy struggles to grab one bag that's fallen close to his still pinned arms. The vine inches way from his hand.

181a JIMMY (CONT'D)
<reaching strains>

182 JIMMY (CONT'D)
What's the matter? Allergic to
peanuts?

With his one free hand, Jimmy manages to tear the package. Jimmy SHAKES the bag. Peanuts fly everywhere. The almost fully formed cocoon SHRIVELS and DIES, blackening.

183 JIMMY (CONT'D)
You are, aren't you?

Jimmy frees himself from the dead vines and grabs peanut bags, stuffing them in his jacket and back in his knapsack.

184 JIMMY (CONT'D)
Please work, please!

Jimmy rips open a bag and tosses them on Ben's cocoon. The cocoon RECEDES as it dies.

185 BEN
<wake up MOAN>

186 JIMMY
Ben! Are you okay?

187

BEN

Fine, now. I could see and hear everything, but I couldn't move.

188

JIMMY

How do we take that thing down without your Ultimatrix.

Ben looks down at his bare wrist.

189

BEN

I'm still trying to figure out how it could take it in the first place.

Jimmy sprinkles peanuts on the next pod. The cocoon dissolves from around Gwen.

190

JIMMY

This thing made a perfect plant copy of you. Including your DNA.

191

GWEN

<Moans> Why is everything always slimy?

192

BEN

Help her. I'll get Kevin.

Jimmy helps with Gwen as Ben opens another bag onto Kevin's cocoon. It also dissolves.

193

GWEN

(to Jimmy)

Guess I should have taken your story more seriously.

194

JIMMY

It's okay. Lots of great investigative reporters get that.

195

KEVIN

(grunts) I can't believe a salad got the drop on me.

Just then the three plant DOPPELGANGERS come back into the cave.

196

PLANT BEN

The humans are free!

197

PLANT GWEN

Destroy them!

Plant Kevin pounds a fist into his palm.

198 PLANT KEVIN
I'm gonna enjoy this.

Kevin touches the cave wall and ARMORS UP in STONE.

199 KEVIN
Not nearly as much as I am!

Plant Kevin and Gwen's arms SHOOT OUT in VINE FORM.

Kevin grabs the PLANT FIST coming toward him and swings his double into the wall.

199a KEVIN (CONT'D)
<swinging effort>

200 PLANT KEVIN
<IMPACT GRUNT>

Gwen uses her ENERGY to CHOP at the vines coming toward her.

200a GWEN
<efforts>

201 GWEN (CONT'D)
They don't have our powers. That's something, anyway.

202 BEN
But my double has the Ultimatrix.

203 PLANT BEN
Yes. I do.

Plant Ben SLAPS the Ultimatrix and TURNS INTO--

204 PLANT CHROMASTONE
Chromastone!

Kevin gets blasted back by a plant fist he fails to dodge. It wraps around him after he bounces off the cave wall.

205 KEVIN
<impact>

Gwen sends a FORCE BURST through the vines, freeing him. Then she gets WRAPPED UP by Plant Gwen!

206 GWEN
<EFFORT GRUNT>

206a GWEN (CONT'D)
Ahh!

Kevin CHANGES his hand into SCISSORS and cuts the vines holding Gwen. Everyone takes cover as Plant Chromastone MACHINE GUNS energy at everyone. Gwen puts up an Energy WALL.

207 GWEN (CONT'D)
<effort> Ben, you've got to get the Ultimatrix back!

208 BEN
Yeah, I'll work on it when I'm not getting shot at.

209 JIMMY
I have an idea! <chewing>

Jimmy rips open a bag of peanuts, filling his hand.

210 BEN
Jimmy, stop alien invasion first, snack later.

211 JIMMY
Watch!

Jimmy flings his handful of peanuts at Plant Chromastone who throws his hands up to block them.

When the peanuts hit him, those areas SIZZLE. The ULTIMATRIX POWERS DOWN and Plant Ben FALLS HARD to the cave floor.

212 PLANT BEN
<IMPACT GRUNT>

Kevin and Gwen continue fighting their plant doppelgangers to a standstill.

213 KEVIN
Nice work, kid!

Ben sprints toward Plant Ben, who gets shakily to his feet and scowls.

Plant Ben ACTIVATES the Ultimatrix, ready to transform. He rears his hand back to slap the watch--

214 BEN
I don't think so!

Ben DIVES toward the watch, getting his hand UNDERNEATH Plant Ben's as the watch ACTIVATES.

There's a HUGE FLASH OF GREEN LIGHT. When it subsides, Our Ben has been replaced with SWAMPFIRE. Plant Ben is standing there, palm on his wrist where the Omnitrix should be. He lifts his hand, the watch is gone.

216 SWAMPFIRE

It's over here.

Swampfire taps the Ultimatrix on his chest.

217 SWAMPFIRE (CONT'D)

By the way Fake Ben,
(shouting)
Swampfire!

Swampfire fires at Plant Ben, who stretches, plant-like, this way and that avoiding his blasts.

218 SWAMPFIRE (CONT'D)

Huh. Can't control it. Guess that makes it a weed.

Swampfire SHOOTS a massive FIREBALL which SHRIVELS Plant Ben, first into his "real" plant form...

219 PLANT CREATURE

<SCREAMS>

... then into a pile of moldering mush.

Gwen SLICES and DICES her double into something like a pile of salad.

220 GWEN

Caesar later, alligator!

Kevin MASHES his plant self into a pile of grass clippings.

221 KEVIN

What?

222 GWEN

Like Caesar salad. Because they're plants.

223 KEVIN

Where's the alligator come in?

224 GWEN

It's part of the expression!

Jimmy points behind Swampfire, Gwen, and Kevin.

225 JIMMY

Umm, guys? My reporter's gut is telling me this isn't quite over.

The group turns to see what Jimmy's pointing at.

The VINES and TENDRILS coating the cavern move, GATHERING BY the BULB EYE which stares malevolently at the group.

226

SWAMPFIRE

Oh, right. The actual alien plant thing itself. Totally forgot.

The PLANT MONSTER assembles itself at the back of the cave. The eye MOVES UPWARDS, a MAW forming underneath it. It's Audy II, the biggest, scariest Venys Flytrap anyone's ever seen.

The "head" comprised of giant mouth dripping with goo and the glowing eye screams in RAGE.

227

PLANT MONSTER

<ANGRY SHRIEK>

The Plant Monster shoots out MASSIVE VINES at everyone, grabbing them.

228

GWEN AND KEVIN

<CRY OF PAIN>

The last human it grabs is Jimmy.

228a

JIMMY

<struggles>

229

PLANT MONSTER

<CRY OF PAIN>

It immediately drops Jimmy, thanks to the spilling peanuts.

Swampfire BURSTS free in a mini-flame blast. He shoots flame and the creature is forced back, dropping Gwen and Kevin.

230

SWAMPFIRE

We've got to lure it into the open where we can move!

The group runs, the Plant Monster SCUTTLING after them with it's "legs," also using it's VINES by gripping the sides of the cavern and ceiling.

231

GWEN

One against four. Well, it's clearly not a Chicken Salad.

232

KEVIN

Okay, stop. I can't let a battle pun be the last thing I hear.

EXT. CAVE - CONTINUOUS

Everyone runs out of the cave. The Plant Monster's VINES grip the edges of the entire cave mouth and it emerges like a disgusting spider.

233 PLANT MONSTER
<INHUMAN ROAR>

The Plant Monster shoots vines out toward everyone.

SWAMPFIRE BURNS AWAY the tentacle aimed at Jimmy.

234 SWAMPFIRE
Jimmy, get out of here!

Swampfire gets BASHED backwards with a thick vine.

235 SWAMPFIRE (CONT'D)
<IMPACT GRUNT>

Jimmy runs off to the side and hides behind a tree.

Kevin runs toward the beast, creating a HAMMER and SICKLE with his arms.

236 KEVIN
That's it! I'm totally going weed whacker on this thing! <efforts>

Kevin razors off bits of the Plant Monster while SMASHING its thicker legs.

236a KEVIN (CONT'D)
<various fighting efforts>

Gwen rises INTO THE AIR and throws a fusillade of energy discs at the creature.

236b GWEN
<throwing efforts>

237 GWEN (CONT'D)
Kevin, get back! You're too close!

Kevin gets one leg wrapped, then another. The Plant Monster pulls him toward itself.

238 KEVIN
<straining grunt>

Gwen grabs his hand, trying to pull him free.

239 GWEN
<effort>

Swampfire TORCHES a bunch of vines coming toward him.

240 SWAMPFIRE

I can't get a shot, Gwen! You're in
the way!

Gwen tries to move away but a bunch of vines grasp her as
another knocks her senseless.

241 GWEN

<impact, then KEEP ALIVE>

Swampfire sees a clear path toward the BULBOUS EYE/HEAD. He
runs toward it as the alien further entwines Gwen and Kevin.

242 SWAMPFIRE

Say cheese!

Before Swampfire and blast it with a fireball the Plant
Monster opens its mouth and SHOOTS a huge stream of the
viscous GOO, dousing his flame. He's wrapped and trapped!

242a PLANT MONSTER

<attack spew>

Jimmy sees from behind the tree.

He runs OUT OF FRAME.

Gwen and Kevin are in the process of being cocooned.
Swampfire struggles, the goo hardening into amber.

243 SWAMPFIRE

<GRUNT OF EFFORT> Can't move!

The Plant Monster lifts Swampfire over his widening MAW. He
lowers him as if to eat.

244 JIMMY (O.S.)

I'll save you!

Ben sees Jimmy has climbed up the hillside above the cave.

245 SWAMPFIRE

Jimmy, no!

Jimmy launches himself from above the cave mouth over the
Plant Monster.

As he falls he throws dumps his open backpack, spilling many
bags of peanuts into the monster's mouth.

246 PLANT MONSTER

<ENRAGED GURGLING>

He manages to hit one of the Plant Monster's vine-y legs and slide to the ground.

The effect is immediate. The Plant Monster SHAKES and TREMBLES.

247 PLANT MONSTER (CONT'D)
<INHUMAN SHRIEKS>

Swampfire is dropped clear, still encased in goo.

247a SWAMPFIRE
Ooof!

248 SWAMPFIRE (CONT'D)
Time to step it up a notch!

The Ultimatrix on Swampfire's chest ACTIVATES. He struggles to move, slapping it and MORPHS into a BLAZING--

Bursting free of the amber, Ultimate Swampfire Burns through the multiple vines holding Gwen and Kevin.

Gwen attaches a force field to Kevin, pulling him away.

251 GWEN
Gotcha!

Ultimate Swampfire jumps onto the Plant Monster's head, holding its mouth open with one arm and his feet.

With his other arm Ultimate Swampfire pulls a large NAPALM SAC from his back and shoves down the thing's gullet. After an EXPLOSION, the whole thing turns to ash, blowing away in the wind. Ultimate Swampfire reverts back to Ben.

252 BEN
And that is that.

253 JIMMY
Ugh! I didn't video any of this!
Stupid! Who's going to believe me
now?

Ben kneels next to Jimmy and smiles.

254 BEN
We will. Jimmy, you're a real reporter.

255 GWEN
Yeah, from now on we'll know to
take you seriously.

256 KEVIN
No matter how nutty you sound.
(to Gwen)
Nutty. You see what I did there?

257 BEN/JIMMY/KEVIN
<laughs>

258 GWEN
Why's it funny when he does it?

259 BEN
I think it's the delivery.

FADE OUT.

THE END